

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02474

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: IS, LE, PORG, MARR
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON - HADDAD SITUATION

REF: STATE 151852

1. IN JUNE 14 CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES, UNDER SYG URQUHART CHARACTERIZED SYG'S REPLY TO ISRAELIS AS "CULPABLY MODERATE".
2. URQUHART SAID HADDAD SITUATION EXTREMELY SERIOUS. HE EXPRESSED OUTRAGE AT ISRAELI COMPLAINTS "ABOUT A FEW ISOLATED TERRORISTS" IN LIGHT OF FAR GREATER RISKS POSED BY HADDAD'S HEAVILY ARMED 600 MAN ARMY PLUS MILITIA.
3. URQUHART SAID AT PRESENT HADDAD SITUATION COVERED BY FIG LEAF OF LEBANESE STATEMENT THAT HE TO BE CONSIDERED PART OF LEBANESE ARMY. URQUHART GREATLY
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02474 151722Z

FEARED FIG LEAF WOULD BE BLOWN AWAY IF HADDAD REFUSED TO OBEY ORDERS FROM BEIRUT OR BY FALL OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IF GOL AVOIDED ISSUING DIFFICULT ORDERS TO HADDAD.

4. MAYNES EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR URQUHART'S POINT AND SAID WE CONVEYING SIMILAR VIEWS

TO PARTIES IN THE AREA. MAYNES SAID ANYTHING THAT
COULD BE DONE TO QUIET HADDAD AND ISRAELI FEARS
ABOUT ARMED PALESTINIANS IN THE AREA WOULD BE A
BIG HELP.

5. URQUHART AND JONAH SAID ARMED PALESTINIANS ISSUE
HAD BEEN BLOWN UP BEYOND ALL PROPORTION. WHILE
RECOGNIZING TERRAIN SUCH THAT IT IMPOSSIBLE PREVENT
ALL INFILTRATION AND NOTING "EVEN ISRAELI'S HAVE NOT
BEEN ABLE DO THAT" THEY INSISTED TOTAL NUMBER
ARMED PALESTINIANS DID NOT ACCEDE 150, MANY OF WHOM
HAD NEVER LEFT AREA BUT MERELY LAIN LOW DURING
ISRAELI OCCUPATION. THEY ASSERTED MOREOVER
THAT MOST OF THESE 150 WERE IN SEVERAL SMALL BANDS
WHICH WERE SURROUNDED BY UN FORCES AND THUS
NEUTRALIZED.

6. JONAH MADE POINT THAT SINCE AGREEMENT TWO WEEKS
AGO WITH ARAFAT THEY HAD RECEIVED NO REPORTS
FROM FIELD OF ANY INFILTRATION OR EVIDENCE
THAT INFILTRATION HAD TAKEN PLACE AND GENERAL
APPEARANCES SUGGEST ARAFAT MAKING GOOD FAITH
EFFORT SO FAR TO HONOR AGREEMENT. URQUHART AND
JONAH STRESSED FEAR THAT OBDURACY ON HADDAD'S PART
COULD LEAD ARAFAT TO CANCEL EXISTING AGREEMENT NOT
TO INFILTRATE AND THIS COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS BLOW UP.
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PAGE 03 USUN N 02474 151722Z

LEONARD

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